4. The Commission's reports on Gram Nyayalaya, Urban Litigation - Mediation as Alternative to Adjudication, Arbitration and Conciliation (Amendment) Bill, 2002 are aimed at addressing the issue of reducing the arrears of court cases by devising alternate mode of settlement of disputes.

5. The 77th Report of the Commission dn Delay and Arrears in Trial Courts deals with the problem of delay and arrears in trial courts and measures to be taken to reform both Civil Procedure and Criminal Procedure at various stages including the recommendations for recruitment and personality of the trial Judge and the training for judicial officers. It also recommends conciliation as one of the methods which can be devised for releiving court of heavy load of civil cases.

In regard to criminal cases, it is stated in the Report that in criminal cases, it is, particularly necessary that the delay be eliminated since the decision depends upon oral rather than documentary evidence and with the passing of time, memory of witness fades. Thus, various recommendations have been made in this Report including the desirability of severing the investigating agency of the police from that of law and order.

6. The 79th Report on Delay on Arrears in High Courts and other Appellate Courts mentions that to prevent the arrears, disposal must maintain pace with institution. Hence, *inter alia*, it was recommended that for clearing arrears, Article 224A of the Constitution of India may be availed of, and retired Judges who had a reputation for efficiency and quick disposal, and who retired within three years be reappointed on *ad-hoc* under this article. Persons who have retired from other High Courts can also be considered.

Fast Track Courts

1276. SHRIR. SHUNMUGASUNDARAM: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Fast Track Courts that are functioning, State-wise;

(b) the number of cases disposed so far by the Fast Track Courts in such State:

(c) whether the overall pendency of cases has been reduced by the Fast Track Courts; and

(d) if so, the details thereof indicating the figure and percentage?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI Hans Raj BHARDWAJ): (a) and (b) A Statement showing the number of Fast Track Courts that are functioning and the number of cases disposed of by such courts is enclosed. (See below)

(c) and (d) Fast Track Courts are intended to take up sessions cases and other cases pending for two years or more, and the cases of under-trials in jails on priority. According to the latest available information, 14,27,003 cases are pending in the sessions courts, whereas, the Fast Track Courts have disposed of 4,31,468 cases so far which includes sessions and other cases out of the 10,38,758 cases transferred to them.

Statement

The number of Fast Track Courts and number of cases disposed of by such courts

Sl. No	Name of the State	No. of FTCs Earmarked	No. of FTCs Functional in the States	No. of cases disposed of by FTCs
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
1.	Andhra Pradesh	86	86	27,216
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	5	3	264
3.	Assam	20	20	9,272
4.	Bihar	183	112	12,631
5.	Chhattisgarh	31	31	10,859
6.	Goa	5	5	204
7.	Gujarat	166	165	26,102
8.	Haryana	36	15	4,043
9.	Himachal Pradesh	9	9	403
10.	Jammu & Kashmir	12	—	—
11.	Jharkhand	89	89	20,532
12.	Karnataka	93	93	4,147

(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
13.	Kerala	37	27	15,940
14.	Madhya Pradesh	85	66	18,229
15.	Maharashtra	187	187	56,059
16.	Manipur	3	2	985
17.	Meghalaya	3	3	157
18.	Mizoram	3	3	328
19.	Nagaland	3	2	142
20.	Orissa	72	32	18,795
21.	Punjab	29	17	6,117
22.	Rajasthan	83	83	21,996
23.	Sikkim	3	—	—
24.	Tamil Nadu	49	49	65,451
25.	Tripura	3	3	1,626
26.	Uttaranchal	45	45	29,111
27.	Uttar Pradesh	242	242	76,008
28.	West Bengal	152	118	4,827

Benches of High Courts

1277. SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a High court Bench in Madurai, Tamil Nadu is to be inaugurated soon and whether there is any proposal to start a High Court Bench in Vijayawada;

(b) if no, whether Government are considering to open High Court Bench in Vijayawada, in particular, and in other parts of the country in general keeping in view the demands of the people of respective States; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI K. VENKATAPATHY): (a) to (c) A permanent Bench of the Madras High Court at Madurai has since been inaugurated on 24.7.2004.

Based on the proposal received from the Government of West Bengal with the concurrence of the Calcutta High Court it is proposed to